

In any ΔABC , the following relationship holds :

$$\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(b^2 + c^2)h_a}{b + c} \leq \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(b^2 + c^2)r_a}{b + c}$$

Proposed by Marin Chirciu-Romania

Solution by Soumava Chakraborty-Kolkata-India

$$\begin{aligned} r_b + r_c &= s \left(\frac{\sin \frac{B}{2}}{\cos \frac{B}{2}} + \frac{\sin \frac{C}{2}}{\cos \frac{C}{2}} \right) = \frac{s \sin \left(\frac{B+C}{2} \right) \cos \frac{A}{2}}{\cos \frac{A}{2} \cos \frac{B}{2} \cos \frac{C}{2}} = \frac{s \cos^2 \frac{A}{2}}{\left(\frac{s}{4R} \right)} = 4R \cos^2 \frac{A}{2} \\ &\therefore r_b + r_c \stackrel{(i)}{=} 4R \cos^2 \frac{A}{2} \\ \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{1}{a(b+c)} &= \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{bc(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab + a^2)}{4Rrs \cdot 2s(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)} = \frac{(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab)^2 + 8Rrs^2}{8Rrs^2(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)} \\ &\Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{1}{a(b+c)} \stackrel{(*)}{=} \frac{(s^2 + 4Rr + r^2)^2 + 8Rrs^2}{8Rrs^2(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)} \\ \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{a}{b+c} &= \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{a-2s+2s}{2s-a} = -3 + \frac{2s}{2s(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)} \cdot \sum_{\text{cyc}} \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab + a^2 \right) \\ &= -3 + \frac{2s}{2s(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)} \cdot \left(\left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right)^2 + \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right) = -3 + \frac{2s(5s^2 + 4Rr + r^2)}{2s(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)} \\ &\Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{a}{b+c} \stackrel{(**)}{=} \frac{2s^2 - 2Rr - 2r^2}{s^2 + 2Rr + r^2} \\ \sum_{\text{cyc}} \operatorname{cosec}^2 \frac{A}{2} &= 3 + \sum_{\text{cyc}} \cot^2 \frac{A}{2} = 3 + \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{s^2}{r_a^2} \\ &= 3 + \frac{s^2}{r^2 s^4} \left(\left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} r_b r_c \right)^2 - 2r_a r_b r_c \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} r_a \right) \right) = 3 + \frac{s^2 (s^4 - 2rs^2(4R+r))}{r^2 s^4} \\ &\Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} \operatorname{cosec}^2 \frac{A}{2} \stackrel{(***)}{=} \frac{s^2 - 8Rr + r^2}{r^2} \\ \sum_{\text{cyc}} b^2 c^2 r_a &\stackrel{\text{via (i)}}{=} \sum_{\text{cyc}} b^2 c^2 \left(4R + r - 4R \cos^2 \frac{A}{2} \right) \\ &= (4R+r) \sum_{\text{cyc}} b^2 c^2 - \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{16R^2 r^2 s^2 \cdot 4R \cos^2 \frac{A}{2}}{16R^2 \cos^2 \frac{A}{2} \sin^2 \frac{A}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (4R + r) \sum_{\text{cyc}} b^2 c^2 - 4Rr^2 s^2 \sum_{\text{cyc}} \operatorname{cosec}^2 \frac{A}{2} \\
 &\stackrel{\text{via } (\dots)}{=} (4R + r) \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 b^2 - 4Rr^2 s^2 \cdot \frac{s^2 - 8Rr + r^2}{r^2} \\
 &\Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} b^2 c^2 r_a \stackrel{(\dots)}{=} (4R + r) \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 b^2 - 4Rs^2 (s^2 - 8Rr + r^2) \\
 \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 r_a &= rs \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(a - s + s)^2}{s - a} = rs \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} (s - a) - 6s + \frac{s^2}{r^2 s} \sum_{\text{cyc}} (s - b)(s - c) \right) \\
 &= rs \left(-5s + \frac{s^2(4Rr + r^2)}{r^2 s} \right) \Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 r_a \stackrel{(\dots)}{=} (4R - 4r)s^2 \\
 &\quad \therefore \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(b^2 + c^2)h_a}{b + c} = \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 - a^2)h_a}{b + c} \\
 &= 2rs \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{1}{a(b + c)} \right) - 2rs \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{a}{b + c} \\
 \stackrel{\text{via } (\ast), (\ast\ast)}{=} &\frac{2rs \left((s^2 - 4Rr - r^2) \left((s^2 + 4Rr + r^2)^2 + 8Rrs^2 \right) - 4Rrs^2 (2s^2 - 2Rr - 2r^2) \right)}{4Rrs^2 (s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)} \\
 \Rightarrow &\boxed{\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(b^2 + c^2)h_a}{b + c} \stackrel{(1)}{=} \frac{s^6 + (4Rr + r^2)s^4 - r^2 s^2 (40R^2 + 8Rr + r^2) - (4Rr + r^2)^3}{2Rs(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)}} \text{ and} \\
 &\sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(b^2 + c^2)r_a}{b + c} = \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(a^2 + \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab)(b^2 + c^2)r_a}{2s(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2s(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)} \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} \left(\left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 b^2 - b^2 c^2 \right) r_a \right) + \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right) \sum_{\text{cyc}} \left(\left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 - a^2 \right) r_a \right) \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2s(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)} \cdot \left(\left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 b^2 \right) (4R + r) - \sum_{\text{cyc}} b^2 c^2 r_a + \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 \right) (4R + r) - \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right) \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 r_a \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{via } (\dots), (\dots) \equiv \frac{1}{2s(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)} \left(\begin{aligned} & \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 b^2 \right) (4R + r) - (4R + r) \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 b^2 + \\ & 4Rs^2(s^2 - 8Rr + r^2) + \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right) \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 \right) (4R + r) - \\ & \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right) (4R - 4r)s^2 \end{aligned} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(b^2 + c^2)r_a}{b + c} \stackrel{(2)}{=} \frac{(4R + 3r)s^4 - rs^2(24R^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2) - r^2(4R + r)^3}{s(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)}$$

$$\therefore (1), (2) \Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(b^2 + c^2)h_a}{b + c} \leq \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(b^2 + c^2)r_a}{b + c}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{s^6 + (4Rr + r^2)s^4 - r^2s^2(40R^2 + 8Rr + r^2) - (4Rr + r^2)^3}{2Rs(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)} \leq \frac{(4R + 3r)s^4 - rs^2(24R^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2) - r^2(4R + r)^3}{s(s^2 + 2Rr + r^2)}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \boxed{s^6 - (8R^2 + 2Rr - r^2)s^4 + rs^2(48R^3 - 56R^2r - 12Rr^2 - r^3) + r^2(128R^4 + 32R^3r - 24R^2r^2 - 10Rr^3 - r^4) \stackrel{(*)}{\leq} 0}$$

Now, LHS of (*) $\stackrel{\text{Gerretsen}}{\leq} (4R^2 + 4Rr + 3r^2)s^4 - (8R^2 + 2Rr - r^2)s^4 + rs^2(48R^3 - 56R^2r - 12Rr^2 - r^3)$

$$\begin{aligned} & + r^2(128R^4 + 32R^3r - 24R^2r^2 - 10Rr^3 - r^4) \stackrel{?}{\leq} 0 \\ \Leftrightarrow & (4R^2 - 2Rr - 4r^2)s^4 - rs^2(48R^3 - 56R^2r - 12Rr^2 - r^3) \\ & \stackrel{?}{\stackrel{(**)}{\geq}} r^2(128R^4 + 32R^3r - 24R^2r^2 - 10Rr^3 - r^4) \end{aligned}$$

Again, LHS of (**) $\stackrel{\text{Gerretsen}}{\geq} (4R^2 - 2Rr - 4r^2)(16Rr - 5r^2)s^2 - rs^2(48R^3 - 56R^2r - 12Rr^2 - r^3) = r(16R^3 + 4R^2r - 42Rr^2 + 21r^3)s^2$

$$\stackrel{?}{\geq} r^2(128R^4 + 32R^3r - 24R^2r^2 - 10Rr^3 - r^4) \Leftrightarrow (16R^3 + 4R^2r - 42Rr^2 + 21r^3)s^2 \stackrel{?}{\stackrel{(***)}{\geq}} r(128R^4 + 32R^3r - 24R^2r^2 - 10Rr^3 - r^4)$$

Once again, LHS of (***) $\stackrel{\text{Gerretsen}}{\geq}$

$$\begin{aligned} & (16R^3 + 4R^2r - 42Rr^2 + 21r^3)(16Rr - 5r^2) \stackrel{?}{\geq} \\ & r(128R^4 + 32R^3r - 24R^2r^2 - 10Rr^3 - r^4) \\ \Leftrightarrow & 32t^4 - 12t^3 - 167t^2 + 139t - 26 \stackrel{?}{\geq} 0 \quad \left(t = \frac{R}{r} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (t - 2)(32t^3 + 20t^2 + 32t(t - 2) + t + 13) \stackrel{?}{\geq} 0 \rightarrow \text{true} \because t \stackrel{\text{Euler}}{\geq} 2$$

$\Rightarrow (***) \Rightarrow (***) \Rightarrow (*)$ is true

$$\therefore \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(b^2 + c^2)h_a}{b + c} \leq \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{(b^2 + c^2)r_a}{b + c} \quad \forall \Delta ABC, " = " \text{ iff } \Delta ABC \text{ is equilateral (QED)}$$